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" (b) The Government forests in Malabar district have been surveyed and mapped by the Survey of India Department. There is no information whether individual private forests have been surveyed or not.

" (c) No, Sir."

Prosecution of ryots for Punam cultivation in Malabar.

* 288 Q.—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of criminal cases filed against the ryots in Malabar in 1953 and 1954 for Punam cultivation in the areas coming under private forests?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" One hundred and one persons were prosecuted in 1953 and 76 in 1954."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that these persons have been cultivating these Punam areas from a very long time past, will the Government enquire into the whole issue? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" From one of the reports received by Government from the Collector, I can inform the hon. Member that 3,000 rupees worth of land belonging to the Kottayur Devasthanam in Kottayam taluk were laid waste at a stretch in 1953–54 by trespassers and prosecution had, therefore, to be launched to stop the wanton violation of the Act."

Tripartite Committee to enquire into the condition of the tile industry.

* 289 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to appoint a Tripartite Committee to go into the conditions of the tile industry and tile workers in the West Coast?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that the workers are getting very low pay and the industry itself is in need of improvement, will the Government consider the question of appointing a Tripartite Committee? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Industrial Tribunal has already given an award relating to the wages and, therefore, Government do not think it worthwhile appointing a Tripartite Committee to make any recommendation."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It appears Mr. K. P. Gopalan has given notice of a short-notice question and the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer it. Let the Hon. Minister read both the question and the answer."